

MEMORANDUM

To: DISTRICT DIVISION CHIEFS
Maintenance and Operations

Date: March 9, 2001

File:

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Traffic Operations
Mail Station 36

Subject: Interim Energy Conservation Measures for Guide Signs

This memorandum is intended to address the current energy situation in California. Until further notice all nonaction guide sign lighting should be turned off, except in special situations where motorist safety could be affected.

More specifically, it is the Caltrans interim policy not to illuminate G23 and other nonaction, advance guide signs when motorist safety is not affected. Our goal is to reduce energy consumption while still providing a safe environment for road users. Following are some of the possible situations where engineering judgement should be used to determine if illumination should be maintained:

- 1) Locations prone to heavy fog or poor visibility.
- 2) Signs in work zones or in the proximity of work zones.
- 3) Nonaction signs adjacent to other signs that must be lighted.

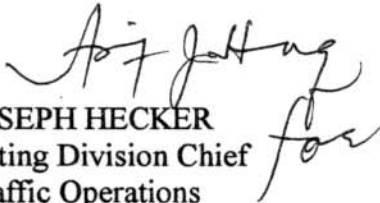
All G21, G24, G83, G85, G86 and other action signs should remain lighted. Generally, action signs inform the motorist about an upcoming maneuver such as a lane assignment or exit. Where practicable, lights should be replaced with energy efficient fixtures.

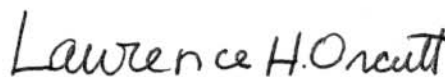
For the time being, this memorandum supercedes pertinent sections of Caltrans Overhead Guide Sign Illumination Policy (Traffic Operations Program Directive #99-02, dated 2-1-99) which is available on the web at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/signdel/directives/directives.html>.

As directed in the Overhead Guide Sign Illumination Policy, new sign structure designs should include appropriate conduit, pull boxes, and fixture attachment points for the future installation of sign lighting if needed.

If you have questions or need more information please contact Mr. Gerry Meis at Calnet 464-4551, Mr. Greg Edwards at Calnet 464-3507, or Mr. Gonzalo Gomez at Calnet 464-2461.


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